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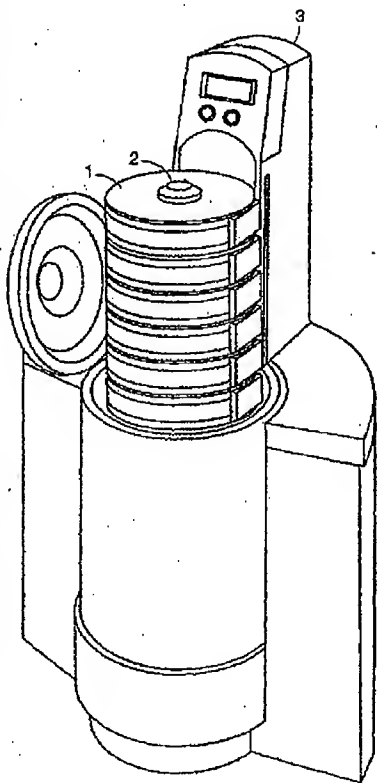
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(54) Title: BLOOD COMPONENT PREPARATION (BCP) DEVICE AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF



(57) Abstract: Automated blood separation method and apparatus that allows for simultaneous separation of multiple units of whole blood into its components. An auto-balancing feature within the apparatus automatically compensates for a changing state of imbalance, thereby eliminating the need for additional balancing steps during the separation process. The apparatus has a plurality of cassettes (1) placed on a drive shaft (2). The cassettes (1) have a number of sections for the containment of the whole blood and for the separated blood components, which are contained in disposable bags. The drive shaft (2) is placed in a centrifuge (3), and the blood components are then separated and transferred to bags in the sections of the cassettes (1). Secondary separation devices such as filters may be included. The manufacturing information regarding the lot identities used and the conditions under which each unit was processed is also included.

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